





**VOLUME 69 No 2** 

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March 2017

## Making a difference, one bag at a time

Millions of Americans live from one day to the next uncertain where their next meal will come from. A sad statistic that helps to reinforce the importance of our annual national Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive, to be held this year on Saturday, May 13.

"Letter carriers see many of these folks along our routes each day," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "Our food drive can make a positive difference in the lives of those who have been dealt difficult hands."

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the national drive, Rolando noted. "Our work and our success will be just as crucial this year as ever, since the problem of hunger in this country shows little sign of going away," he said.



## The Great Postal Strike of 1970

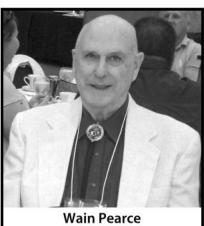
A Conversation with Former **Branch 9 VP Wain Pearce** 

By: Jeremy Rothstein, Editor

On Wednesday, March 18, 1970, New York City letter carriers after 18 months of sheer frustration over pay issues decided they would take their campaign to the streets for higher wages. The first strike against the Post Office had begun and would soon spread to 14 states with over 208,000 postal employees, including Branch 9.

Wain Pearce was the VP of Branch 9 at the time. I spoke with him recently on the phone about the strike. He recalls the time as desperate. It was a time when there wasn't any alternative but to strike. The struggle carriers had endured was at a point of action. Their wages were so low that letter carriers would leave work at 2:30 and go to a second job at 3:00 in order to support their families. Other carriers supplemented their wages with welfare payments. Wain wrote in 1970 that postal employees have been taken for granted for too long and their only reward has been to sink deeper into poverty.

Branch 9 President Vern Doll had traveled to Washington to meet with other national union leaders leaving Wain as the Acting President. Wain needed to find a meeting hall in order to hold



**Past Branch 9 Vice President** 

the vote on whether Minneapolis carriers were going to join the strike or not. He also needed to find people to help start making signs, etc., for the potential strike. But before the Minneapolis carriers had a chance to meet and vote on the strike. Wain along with 5 other union officers were summoned to go stand before a federal judge. That judge told them to, "go to work or go to jail". The 5 officers and their lawyer (Eugene Keating brother of Jerome J. Keating of Branch 9) told the judge there was to be a vote, in which the membership would make the decision on what the Union would do. During the meeting the membership overwhelming voted to strike, and shortly thereafter VP Pearce was issued an arrest warrant, which is currently on display at the Branch 9 office.

VP Pearce recalls members with 20 - 30 years of service (close

Postal Strike continued pg. 8



March 2017

## RETIREMENTS



Charles Shimota celebrates his retirement with his fellow carriers at Chanhassen. Enjoy your retirement Charlie!



Tom Kunshier (Fridley) celebrates his last punch with Steward Perry Korzenowski. Congratulations Tom!



Michael Giffis (senior carrier in Minneapolis with 45 years) celebrates his retirement at Lost Lake with Steward Robb Petersburg and Mike Zagaros. Congratulations!



Linda Mann and Gene Panser (Loring) celebrate their retirments with Darrell Maus, Steward James Moreside and Mike Zagaros. Happy retirement Linda and Gene!

**Rodney Anderson** 

## Branch 9, NALC 2408 Central Ave. NE Minneapolis, MN 55418 Voice: (612) 781-9858 Fax: (612) 781-9849 Website: branch9nalc.com

#### **Branch 9 Officers**

<u>President</u> Mike Zagaros

Exec. Vice President Darrell Maus

Recording Secretary
JoAnn Gilbaugh

Treasurer Lisa O'Neill

Financial Secretary
Samantha Hartwig

<u>Editor</u> Jeremy Rothstein branch9news@branch9nalc.com

> Sergeant at Arms Jim Nelson

#### **Trustees**

Ken Jambois Stacy Ellingson Joe Rian

Director of Retirees Rodney Anderson C: (651) 270-7807

Mike Smith HBR: (612) 963-6252

The Branch Nine News is a monthly publication of NALC Branch 9, and is published in the interest of and for the members of NALC Branch 9.

The opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily those of the OFFICERS, or of NALC Branch 9.

Articles MUST be submitted to the editor by the 1st of the month, and must be signed. The Editorial Staff reserves the right to edit or refuse to print articles which are derogatory in nature.

Any official NALC organization may reproduce our articles provided appropriate credit is given.

## Retirees Rolling Right Along

Fellow retirees, can you roll a ball down a wooden track? Well, you can't possibly do any worse than me, and your opportunity to prove it is coming up on Saturday, April 22!

As I constantly say, your chances for meaningful fun do not end with retirement. Branch 9 offers plenty of opportunities for us to serve and have a great time doing so, such as helping with the Food Drive or battling.

with the Food Drive or battling

Branch 28 at the semiannual cribbage tournaments.

Director of Retirees

One of Branch 9's biggest charity events is on the evening of Saturday, April 22 at the New Hope Bowl in New Hope and YOU ARE INVITED (see ad on page 13). The redoubtable Bob Baird is looking for retirees to compete on the Retiree Team and show those young pups how we (old timers) can outshine them by raising more money for MDA than they can, and have a terrific time while doing it. To sign up, please call Bob at 612-599-8934. He's waiting by his phone for you.

If you can't bowl (or are as wretched a bowler as I am), it doesn't matter. It's for charity, it's for fun, and there will be SO MUCH to do and see — baskets, prizes, auctions, and a terrific time to be had by all.

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unless it is addressed in the CBA,

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we begin 2017, the focus of our Union continues to be much like FERS (Federal Employees Retirement System) a threelegged stool. The three legs are: 1. Contract Enforcement, 2. Improving the Atmosphere on the Workroom Floor, and 3. A Focus on Legislation Affecting the Postal Service and our jobs and benefits as well. Each of these are #1. That's 1A, 1B and 1C.

1A - Contract Enforcement of the terms of our Collective **Bargaining Agreements (CBA** otherwise known as the contract) is one of the primary obligations of the NALC or any union. The people whose obligation is not just made up of the officers and stewards. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they are working within the confines of the CBA. It is also everyone's responsibility to hold management accountable when they are requiring or allowing it to happen. Your steward has the grievance procedure to hold management accountable. You also have access to the first step of filing a grievance at Informal Step A on your own behalf. But the most important role you have as a rank and file member is when you witness something you believe to be wrong, tell someone. Tell your steward, or call the Branch Office or even better, if you are willing, give a written statement in support of what you saw or heard.

Not everything that we think is wrong is a contractual violation. Remember the CBA is primarily a list of restrictions on management. Article 3 states that "The employer shall have the exclusive right subject to the provisions of this Agreement and consistent with applicable laws and regulations." In other words,

LMOU, Laws, Memorandum of Understanding, other handbooks manuals and national level decisions, management does have the right to tell us what to do and how to do it. Even if we believe that it is a violation, we are expected to "obey now and grieve later, unless it is a threat to your personal safety or against the law" (subjecting you to arrest). Even if the instruction does not make sense or it takes longer to follow the instruction. Take for example the latest directive from USPS Headquarters regarding case configuration. "HQ identified routes that have more than 2 cases. It is a requirement to reduce cases in all offices unless an exception is approved." There does not appear to be a definitive list of what qualifies as an exception. In conversations with management, if you are unable to put all the mail into the case or you have physical restrictions, they would qualify as an exception. I have heard from several offices that management is implementing this directive and carriers are asking what we can do? Speak to your manager about why you need more than 2 pieces of equipment. The MPOO or MCSO are the people who approve all exceptions. Case configuration is not a part of the CBA. If you have questions about whether or not you should be an exception see you steward or gives us a call at the Branch Office. It you want to learn more about the contract or your rights under the CBA, all members are welcome to attend the monthly training at the Officers and Steward's Board Meeting the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Crystal VFW.

1B - Improving the Atmosphere on the Workroom Floor. Carriers spend more of their waking hours



at work than doing anything else. While most of your time is spent on the street. It is in the office that the most difficult issues happen. How carriers are treated on the workroom floor by management and by each other is a serious situation that needs to be addressed. The responsibility for maintaining an atmosphere where everyone is treated with dignity and respect falls on management. It is the union's responsibility to hold management accountable for the atmosphere when they don't. Too often we hear about carriers being bullied, belittled, called names, yelled at and even threatened, by management and by other carriers. Interpersonal Conflict has been part of our society since the beginning of time, but that doesn't make it right. That type of atmosphere can't be tolerated or allowed to continue. What can you do if it happens to you? Tell someone your steward, your supervisor, the Branch Office etc. do not remain silent. Remember the union has time limits in which to file a grievance. 14 days from the date of what happened. Even if there were no witnesses, report it. If you see or hear it happening to someone else, let the person being abused know that you were a witness and are willing to support them. The most difficult conflicts

"Pres. Report" continued on pg. 11





## 2017 Proposed By-Law Additions & Changes

#### **ARTICLE VI.B**

## NEW ADDITION SECTION 6

A. At the August General Membership Meeting of the year of the bi-annual MSALC training meeting, the Branch shall decide what compensation will be allowed to the attendees.

- B. All members who meet the eligibility requirements and properly request funding will be entitled to an equal amount of available funds to defray the claimed expense for attendance at the bi-annual MSALC training meeting. Funding will come from dollars allocated under the training budget of the year the bi-annual MSALC training meeting is held.
- C. Eligibility for payment of the expenses of any attendee of the biannual MSALC training meetings will include:
- 1. Attendance at 2 of the 12 General Membership Meetings immediately preceding the MSALC training meeting.
- 2. A Letter of Intent to attend, along with a Request for Funding if desired, submitted to the Branch Recording Secretary by July 1 of the year in which the bi-annual MSALC training meeting will be held.
- 3. Be a member in good standing at the time of the bi-annual MSALC training meeting.

Submitted by, Joe Rian

#### **ARTICLE 2, SECTION 6.A**

#### **CURRENT LANGUAGE**

Any active member on the USPS rolls who is in a non-pay status must pay full membership dues directly to the Branch 9 Financial Secretary each month. If an active member exceeds a period of sixty (60) consecutive days without having paid membership dues, they will be

dropped from the Branch 9 NALC membership.

Active members may, for extenuating circumstances appeal to the Branch 9 Executive Board to have their membership dues waived and thereby retain their NALC membership. The Executive Board will rule by majority on all such appeals.

## PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE SECTION 6.A

Any active member on the USPS rolls who is in a non-pay (nodeduct) status for reasons of; members on OWCP, members in non-pay status pending removal, members in non-pay status for medical reasons, must pay full membership dues directly to the Branch 9 Financial Secretary each month.

If an active member exceeds a period of ninety (90) consecutive days without having contacted the Branch or paid membership dues, they will be dropped from the Branch 9 NALC membership.

Active members may, for extenuating circumstances appeal to the Branch 9 Executive Board to have their membership dues waived and thereby retain their NALC membership. The Executive Board will rule by majority on all such appeals.

Submitted by, Darrell Maus

## ARTICLE III, SECTION 6

## **CURRENT LANGUAGE**

The Financial Secretary shall receive receipts for, and disburse all monies of the Branch 9 Building Corporation, and keep a regular account thereof. The Financial Secretary shall maintain and coordinate the insurance policies of Branch 9 and the Branch 9 Building Corporation.

## PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE SECTION 6.

The Financial Secretary shall receive receipts for all monies of the Branch and keep a regular account thereof.

The Financial Secretary shall receive receipts for, and disburse all monies of the Branch 9 Building Corporation and keep a regular account thereof. He/ She shall draw all warrants on the Treasurer ordered by the Building Corporation.

The Financial Secretary will reconcile all Branch accounts and all Building Corporation accounts per account statement schedule.

The Financial Secretary shall maintain and coordinate the insurance policies of Branch 9 and the Branch 9 Building Corporation.

Submitted by, Elizabeth O'Neill

## **ARTICLE III, SECTION 23**

#### **CURRENT LANGUAGE**

Branch 9 Officers shall strive in all their endeavors, both internally and with management, to assure that there shall be no discrimination by the Employer or the Union against employees because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or marital status.

## PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE SECTION 23

Branch 9 Officers and Stewards shall strive in all their endeavors, both internally and with management, to assure that there shall be no discrimination by the Employer or the Union against employees because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, *gender identity*, age, disability or marital status.

Submitted by, David Flynn

2017 Proposed By-Laws cont. pg. 11







## **Executive Vice President's Report**

## **US POSTAL STRIKE**

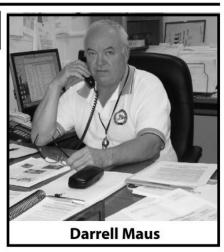
The U.S. Postal Strike of 1970 was a two-week strike by federal postal workers in March 1970. The strike began in New York City and spread to many other cities in the following two weeks. The strike was illegal, against the federal government, and the largest wildcat strike in U.S. history. The strike began just after midnight on March 18, 1970, as members of the NALC local branch 36 voted 1,555 to 1,055 to walk out the next morning. Even as President James Rademacher urged the membership to return to work, the wild-cat strike spread across the nation including our own branch 9. More than 210,000 from the then titled United States Post Office Department workers were involved across the nation, although initially the strike affected only workers in New York City. These workers which included the clerks and mail handlers decided to strike even though their leaders were not endorsing the strike.

As workers marched in picket lines in front of post offices from New York to Los Angeles, Americans who might have taken their mail for granted were anxiously seeking a resolution to the strike even though they were sympathetic to the carriers cause. At a time before cell phones and the internet, when fax machines were brand new and few in number, mail carriers toted the nation's commerce and vast amounts of business transactions and information in their bags. Letters, bills and checks to pay those bills, birthday cards, passports, legal documents, and even draft notices (over 9,000) piled up in mail sacks on post office floors across the nation. The strike crippled the nation's mail

system. The stock market fell due to the strike's effect on trading volume and some feared that the stock market would have to close entirely.

On the afternoon of March 23, 1970, President Richard Nixon addressed the American public on television. He announced that he had, "just now, directed the activation of the various military organizations to begin in NYC the restoration of essential mail services." Nixon ordered 24,000 military personnel forces to begin distributing the mail. More than 18,500 military assigned to New York offices alone. The servicemen were from the regular Army, National Guard, Army Reserve, Air National Guard and Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Reserve. There were some carriers at that time that were also a part of these forces and were the only ones that knew what the job consisted of. At the core of the carrier's complaints were recent Congressional actions that gave a 41% pay raise to Members of Congress while postal employees would receive a 4% raise. Letter carriers and other postal workers were at the low end of the national wage scale. The situation was so dire that some carriers in New York City were eligible for welfare programs. At that time it took 21 years for a carrier to reach the top pay scale amount of \$9,000 annually. The strike came to an end a little over a week after it began. Postal workers eventually secured a larger pay increase and more benefits. Not a single worker was fired, as the Nixon administration continued to negotiate with postal union leaders.

The postal strike influenced the passage and signing of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. Effective July 1, 1971, the



U.S. Post Office Department became the U.S. Postal Service, an independent branch of the Federal Government. The four major postal unions (National Association of Letter Carriers, American Postal Workers Union, National Postal Mail Handlers Union, and the National Rural Letter Carriers Association) won full collective bargaining rights: the right to negotiate on wages, benefits and working conditions, although they still were not allowed the right to strike.

It is because of the determination and willpower of those carriers, clerks, and mail handlers that earned the pay and benefits that we now enjoy. We must not forget and be forever grateful and a huge THANK YOU TO THE WORKERS OF THE 1970 POSTAL STRIKE!



J.	Wesley Woods
\$1,000 Scho	larship Application Form
ıme	Phone

Name\_\_\_\_\_Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

High School\_\_\_\_\_

Member parent's name\_\_\_\_\_

Work unit\_\_\_\_\_

School to attend (if known)\_\_\_\_\_

## Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson \$2,000 Scholarship Application Form

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_\_

Member parent's name \_\_\_\_\_\_

Work unit \_\_\_\_\_\_

School to attend (if known)\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P. McNulty \$2,000 Scholarship Application Form

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_

High School\_\_\_\_\_\_

Member parent's name\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work unit\_\_\_\_\_\_

School to attend (if known)\_\_\_\_\_\_

## High School Seniors, please submit your scholarship applications to Branch 9 by <u>May 23, 2017</u> or bring to that night's GMM

Every spring, Branch 9 awards three scholar-ships to graduating seniors: the J. Wesley Woods Scholarship (\$1,000); the Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson Scholarship (\$2,000); and the Walter E. Couillard/Eugene P. McNulty Scholarship (\$2,000). These awards have made it easier for many students to begin their post-secondary education while honoring the sacrifices and contributions of important Branch 9 Leaders.

The following rules apply to all three scholarships:

- A. Any senior graduating from high school and is a dependent of a Branch 9 member is eligible for these scholarships.
- B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university.
- C. Three names will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner, then first and second runner-up respectively. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawings.
- D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:
- 1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone number.
- 2. The name of the applicant's parent or guardian who is a member of Branch 9.
- 3. The intended school of choice, if known.
- E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their tuition.

Members with dependents who graduate from high school this spring and who plan to attend an accredited educational institution next fall, should complete the applications and return them to the Branch Office by May 23 or bring them to that night's GMM. All three forms should be submitted as there are three separate drawings for each scholarship. Please enter the three scholarship drawings only once.



## **Adult Learners Scholarship**

## Leonard A. Larson/Barry J. Weiner Scholarship

## Adult Learners, please submit your scholarship application to Branch 9 by May 23, 2017 or bring to that night's GMM

Leonard A. Larson/Barry J. Weiner Adult Learner Scholarship Application Form	
Name	
Phone	
Address	
I I	
Active or Retired	
Work Unit	

#### Two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

The following rules apply to the two scholarships:

- A. Any member active or retired in good standing of Branch 9 is eligible for one of the two scholarships.
- B. The scholarships may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university. The Adult Learner Scholarships may also be used for any community, county or state adult educational program.
- C. One name will be drawn for each scholarship. The first name picked will be the winner. The winners of any drawing will not be eligible for the other drawings.
- D. The application for the drawings will run in the March and April issues of the Branch Nine News. The drawing will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The applications shall contain the following information:
- 1. The applicant's name, address, and home phone
- 2. Whether active or retired.
- E. Payment to the winners will be made after they have enrolled and can show proof of payment towards their
- F. Benefits under the Adult Learner Scholarships expire one year from date of drawing.

Members who plan to attend an accredited education institution should complete the application and return it to the Branch Office by May 23, or bring to that night's General Membership Meeting.



## **Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship** A Labor and Education Partnership

This scholarship provides financial assistance to racial/ethnic minority union members and their families who wish to pursue post-secondary education at one of Minnesota's State Universities or at one of the two year community and technical colleges that are part of the Minnesota State colleges and Universities (MnSCU).

Application for 2017 - 2018 academic year now being accepted.

http://www.nelliestone.org





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Postal Strike continued from pg. 1 to retiring) risking their jobs, retirement and possible jail time. Carriers voted to strike for better wages and benefits. The decision to strike as VP Pearce stated, was timed to put pressure on Congress from their constituents, who may not receive their social security checks or other government checks through the mail.

VP Pearce stated the national union president and leaders were not so willing to strike because they were being paid better than carriers. It was the carriers that led the union into this strike and the national leaders had to play catch up.

VP Pearce hopes current carriers understand how and why we have the pay and benefits we enjoy today. Because of the strike, we (the Union) are able to negotiate with management for wages and benefits. We have binding arbitration instead of the inaction and federal budget issues of Congress.

VP Pearce said, "Before the strike the union wasn't very powerful. It was in name only. The 1970 strike gave us a Union. It's up to us to keep it."

You can read more from VP Wain Pearce at <u>www.branch9nalc.com</u> in "Our First 100 Years." Or join us at the Retiree Red and Gold Banquet and talk to him and other 1970 strikers in person.

## 2016 Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Leadership Grants

Sponsored by the Minnesota AFL-CIO for members of affiliated unions seeking to develop their abilities and skills as union leaders.

## The Tobey Lapakko Labor Leadership Grant (a total of \$1,000 in grants will be awarded)

Available to women who are union members in good standing to help defray the cost of classes, programs or conferences sponsored or endorsed by the AFL-CIO or affiliated organizations.

## The Charles McKenna Leadership Grant (a total of \$1,000 in grants will be awarded)

Available to men who are union members in good standing to help defray the cost of classes, programs or conferences sponsored or endorsed by the AFL-CIO or affiliated organizations

## Martin Duffy Adult Learner Scholarship Award

\$500 Tuition Scholarship for use at any accredited University, College or Vocational School. Two Scholarships are awarded each year.

No academic performance standards or records required for eligibility. Awards must be used within one year of receipt of notification letter.

> Please submit ONLY one application. Duplicate entries will be disqualified.

Information and applications available at http://www.mnaflcio.org/about/scholarships-awards

## CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

Thursday, April 6, 2017

10:00AM

## PLACE:

NALC Branch 28 1715 Van Dyke Street Maplewood, MN 651.771.0533







## 2017 Minnesota AFL-CIO Scholarships

## UNIVERSAL APLICATION FORM (Entry

Deadline: April 30, 2017)

The Minnesota AFL-CIO sponsors scholarships for high school seniors graduating in 2017. There are three requirements for the Minnesota AFL-CIO scholarships. To be eligible, you must:

- be a union member or a dependent of a union member whose local union is affiliated with the Minnesota AFL-CIO;
- have a straight "B" average or better (2.0 in a 3.0 grade point system/3.0 in a 4.0 grade point system);
- attend a post-secondary institution located within the state of Minnesota.

Winners will be selected by lot by the Minnesota AFL-CIO Education Committee.

Please submit ONE application only. Duplicate entries will be disqualified.

Select One Option Only:				
Applying for college	DAVID K. ROE SO			
or university		olarships awarded)		
		president of the Minnesota	AFL-CIO	
	from 1966 – 1985 and	is President Emeritus.		•
		IPHREY MEMORIAL	AWARD	
	(two \$1,000 scho	olarships awarded)		
	Hubert Humphrey ser and Vice President of	ved as U.S. Senator from N the United States.	Innesota,	
Applying for	DONALD PILLA	MEMORIAL AWARD		
vocational/technical		nolarship awarded)		
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	TED BY APPLICANT: (P	lease print or type)		
Date of birth		Age last bi	rthday	
What is your post secondary	education objective?		*	
Which College, University of are you planning to attend?_		Trade School locate	ed within the Sta	ate of Minnesota
ART III – TO BE COMPLE	ETED BY LOCAL UNION	OFFICER: (Ple	ase print or type)	
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	(appricant or parent or legal gu	arcian or applicant)		
is a member in			Local No	
good standing ofName	e of International Union			
application, and that our loc applicant's eligibility).  Local Union Officer			Title	ement for the
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Street		City	State	Zip
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Signature of officer  Date  PART IV – TO BE COMPLE	Phone of the section	. PRINCIPAL, CO		
Signature of officer  Date  ART IV – TO BE COMPLE  This applicant has at least a s	Phone of the section	()  PRINCIPAL, CO or high school.		
Signature of officer  Date  ART IV – TO BE COMPLE  This applicant has at least a s	Phone of the second of the sec	()  PRINCIPAL, CO or high school.		
Signature of officer  Date  PART IV – TO BE COMPLE  This applicant has at least a s  Signature  Principal o  SPECIAL NOTE TO CO an official transcript of th	Phone of the section	or high school.  Date  J. III and IV are comord – including that	PUNSELOR OR	ADVISOR:
Date	Phone grant of the straight "B" average in senior Counselor or Advisor  DUNSELOR: After Parts I, II are applicant's high school reco	or high school.  Date  July and IV are compord—including that a 30, 2017, to:  AFL-CIO Committee Avenue	PUNSELOR OR	ADVISOR:





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March 2017 **Branch Nine News** 

"Pres. Report" continued from pg. 3

2017 Proposed By-Law cont. from pg. 4

#### **ARTICLE III, SECTION 7**

#### **CURRENT LANGUAGE**

The Treasurer shall receive receipts for, and disburse all monies of the Branch, and keep a regular account thereof. He/She shall pay all warrants on him/her by the Recording Secretary voted by the Branch and signed by the President, and have all accounts receipted upon payment of the same.

#### PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE SECTION 7

The Treasurer shall receive receipts for, and disburse all monies of the Branch and keep a regular account thereof. He/She shall pay all warrants on him/her by the Recording Secretary voted by the Branch and signed by the President, and have all accounts receipted upon payment of the same.

He/She shall pay all warrants on him/her by the Financial Secretary voted by the Building Corporation and signed by the President, and have all accounts receipted upon payment of the same.

Submitted by, Elizabeth O'Neill

**Branch 9 members** will be voting on the above listed **By-Law proposals** at the April 25, 2017 **GMM** 

are when they are between two carriers. Again, it is management's responsibility to control the workroom environment. But the carriers are each entitled to union representation. If you are in an office with only one steward, make sure that the Branch Office is notified so another representative can be assigned. Any grievances filed will be against management for their actions or lack of action. If you want more information, see your steward or contact the

Branch Office for a copy of the

Dignity and Respect.

Guide to Preserving the Right of

Letter Carriers to be Treated with

1C - A Focus on Legislation Affecting the Postal Service and our jobs and benefits. With the direction the new Republican government is taking regarding federal and postal employees our jobs, pay, current benefits and retirement benefits are increasingly being subjected to attacks. Some of this is not new, but there seems to be an almost animus feeling against federal employees, their unions and working families in general. In the two months that the House has been in session over 1000 bills have been introduced and many more are on the way. It is important to note, that these bills have not been finalized, so there is still time for modification but, given the lay of the land in Washington these days, the only way any positive letter carrier bills can proceed is with the help of Republican majority in a bipartisan manner. There are 3 resolutions that we are asking our members of Congress to get on board with by co-sponsoring, they are HRes. 15 (Protecting Six Day Delivery), HRes. 28 (Protecting Door to Door Delivery), HRes 31 (Restoring Delivery Standards). These resolutions have bipartisan support.

There has been a bill introduced which can have a major impact on us. HR 756 - A bill to restore the financial solvency and improve the governance of the United States Postal Service in order to ensure the efficient and affordable nationwide delivery of mail and for other purposes. This bill, otherwise known as the Postal Service Reform Act of 2017, it has 4 basic components: Title I - Postal Service Benefits Reform; Title II - Postal Service Operations Reform; Title III -**Postal Service Personnel and Title** IV - Postal Contracting Reform and is available online at www. congress.gov, but it is 121 pages. Much of this was proposed in the last Congress but died there. So, they had to start the process all over again. I will try to address the highlights as this bill progresses through Congress. To begin with here is the summary for the first title of the Bill "Benefits Reform". The proposed benefit reforms include the establishment of the Postal Service Health Benefit Plan Program (PSHBP). This plan would be available to all active and retired employees and their families. It would place letter carriers in a separate risk pool for calculating rates. It also calls for the mandatory Medicare Part B integration for annuitants and their families. When implemented, it would remove postal employees from the FEHBP. At this time there has been only one hearing and President Rolando testified on behalf of the Union. Learn more about his testimony at www.NALC.

As with any three-legged stool, it is easy to tip over. Ours will tip over if we don't have everyone's involvement. To find out how you can get involved. Come to the General Membership Meetings, the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Crystal VFW.

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March 2017

## **Ron St Clair MDA Bowl-a-Thon 2017**

By: Joe Rian, Branch 9 Trustee & MDA Coordinator

The Ron St. Clair MDA Bowlathon is set for 7:00 PM Saturday, April 22 at the New Hope Bowl. The Muscular Dystrophy Association's mission is to save and improve lives of people fighting neuromuscular diseases. Letter carriers of Branch 9, MDA needs your help! By working together, we can have an enormous effect on the total dollars raised at this year's MDA Bowlathon.

Besides putting big, brimming smiles on the faces of young people with muscular dystrophy, the money collected at the MDA Bowl-a-thon helps pay for the following:

- 1) Children to attend MDA
  Summer Camp at Camp Courage
  near Maple Lake, MN where kids
  have a camp they can enjoy with
  personal camp counselors and
  on site medical staff trained in
  the special needs of children
  with neuromuscular diseases. (It
  typically costs \$800+ for a week at
  summer camp)
- 2) Support group sessions to educate and allow parents time to network with others having like experiences raising children with neuromuscular diseases.
- 3) Physical therapy for those with neuromuscular diseases.
- 4) Repairs of wheelchairs and other equipment designed specifically to help children and adults with neuromuscular diseases.
- 5) Research to cure neuromuscular diseases.

There are several ways every one of us carriers can participate.

Come bowl TWO fun games, eat some pizza and have a few refreshments. There is a \$40 minimum pledge per bowler and maximum pledges are unlimited. We ask non-bowlers to make a charitable donation of \$20.00 at the door and be listed on the Branch 9 MDA Honor Roll. Lane sponsorships are \$300 and sponsors will get the name of their company and/or logo posted in large print at the registration area at the entrance of the bowling alley.

Have a great time as you watch while your co-worker scores 6 strikes in a row or, for the more challenged bowler among us, watch their balls bounce off the gutters and still have a chance at a spare. There is always something unusual happening and you can bet the talk at the station afterwards will very be interesting. While you are bowling, be sure to enjoy the full service adult beverage center. Many relaxing beverages are available.

And, in between eating, drinking and bowling, check out dozens of unusual and fabulous silent auction baskets created by Branch Niner's who come from exotic stations like Coon Rapids, Belle Plaine, Lowry, Burnsville and Anoka to help raise big money for MDA. There is always a good deal to be had on the silent auction baskets and we score big dollars to help kids.

A silent auction basket can be put together for less than \$50. This is a perfect price range for many of us. Try creating a beverage basket, or a personal care products basket or maybe a handyman's basket or let your imagination run wild and get crazy and maybe win a prize!

There is a competition for the best silent auction baskets. There are three categories to score points to win and treat your station to super sweet rolls and donuts covered with sprinkles for everyone.

They are:

- 1) The most unique basket.
- 2) The most useful basket
- The most daring or risqué basket

We totally understand everyone cannot attend that night but there are many other ways to participate. Sponsor a bowler or a team. Take up a collection at the office and help donate a basket or two for the silent auction. Bake sales. Hot dog roasts. Raffle off the boss' parking spot close to the door. Raising big money for MDA can be fun every day of the week! If you wish, you can mail in your donation for the Ron St Clair Annual MDA Bowl-a-Thon to Branch 9 MDA Coordinator. 2408 Central Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Make all checks payable to Branch 9 MDA Bowl-a-Thon and please put in the memo field Muscular Dystrophy Association. If a receipt is needed for tax purposes, let us know. We'll be sure to get one out to you.

Rest assured, your donation is tax deductible and will provide care for kids and adults from day one so they can live longer and grow stronger.

Please get your list of bowlers (and \$40.00 per bowler registration if possible) to Angie at the Branch 9 office, fax number 612-781-9849 as soon as you can but no later than Tuesday, April 18.

Thank you so much. I'm profoundly grateful for your support!







## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mebratu Asfaw Holly Balsimo Joseph Conecin **Angel Cotto** David Feldmann Albert Fisher Nhia Her Matthew Jacobs **Fahad Mansoor** Matthew Medrano Erton Okeke **Timothy Quinlan** Nicholas Skogman Darla Spilde Vang Thao **Kelsang Wangyal Fuad Warsame** 

# Branch 9 City Carrier Assistant (CCA) & New Career Employees Meeting THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017

#### 7:00PM

Crystal VFW 5222 56th Avenue North (Bass Lake Road) Crystal, MN 55429

This meeting provides City Carrier Assistants (CCA's) and new career employees a great opportunity, in an informal setting, to learn more about your rights at work and your future with the Postal Service.

If you don't know your rights, you have none!

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Robert Harris
James W. Keenan
Basil Kumpula
Vernon Mahrer
George Martin
John McKibbin
Lawrence Molstad
Donald OConnor

# Branch 9 Ron St Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon Saturday, April 22, 2017

## **LOCATION**

NEW HOPE BOWL 7107 42nd Avenue North New Hope, MN 55427

## TIME

7:00 - 9:00PM



## **AME'S UNIFORMS**

## **OUR BUSINESS IS MAKING YOU LOOK GOOD!**

Br. 9 Retired Letter Carrier Kerry Herdine Home: 952.854.2655 Cell: 612.805.8407 We offer "Life of the Garment" guarantee.
If fixable we will repair your uniform at no cost to you.
Take waist in/out and change hem length

Ame's Uniforms are a UNION PREFERRED vendor







## **Richfield Wins Northland District Customer Connect Breakfast**

By: Joe Rian, Branch 9 Trustee & Richfield Steward

I would like to express my sincere and grateful admiration to all my Richfield co-workers for the hard work and fun we had competing and ultimately winning the 2016 Northland District Customer Connect breakfast held on February 15, 2017. Led by the example of veteran carriers Jeanne Spratt and Richard (Red) Langsdorf, Richfield made getting a customer connect lead a grand experience, worthy of applause and theme music. With help from Northland District **Custom Connect Coordinator** Kelly Buesgens, our management team and our friends in the clerk craft, we made working on Customer Connect a regular and entertaining part of our daily

duties as USPS employees.
Brother Red took his 30+ years of experience and patiently helped each of us learn how to use the Customer Connect lead card to make friends with our customers, get a lead and turn it into a sale. Sister Jeanne took our completed lead cards and ensured they were submitted on time. Her follow up on the leads was meticulous and relentless. She really made sure our customer leads mattered!

But above it all, this was a Richfield team effort. Leads were gathered by a station full of dedicated, well dressed, good looking, professionals, us. We supported each other in our endeavors. We each shared something personal of ourselves when we reached out to people we saw every day and said something like. "I think we can help your business save a little money and, maybe make more money. If you are interested I can have one of our experts call and explain it to you." It sounds a little scary at first, but just like getting all the letters down a mail slot, it gets a lot easier every time you do it.

We hope we can keep the momentum going in 2017. After all, it was a very, very tasty breakfast.



# UNIFORMS

Minneapolis 2220 Lyndale Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55405 612-377-0011

## The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters

USA Union preferred St. Paul 935 N. Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55103 651- 224 - 7567





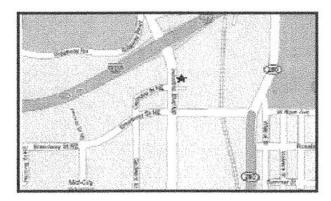
## Branch 9's Annual

## Red and Gold Retiree Banquet

Minneapolis Ramada Plaza
1330 Industrial Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN

## Sunday, May 7, 2017

For more than 50 years we have honored our retirees with a Red & Gold Banquet. Please join us the first Sunday in May for a day of good times and good fellowship, as we say thank you to those who have come before us



Registration: Noon - 1:00

Social Hour: 12:30 - 1:15

Lunch: 1:15 - 3:30

Registration Fee for Retirees and Station Stewards is \$12.00/per person. Cost for Active Members is \$18.00/per person

\*The Registration Fee for Retirees is refundable upon arrival.\*

Name:		
Name of Gue	st:	Return by April 28 to:
Time of Gue	U * 7	Branch 9, NALC
	I would like a ride to the Banquet	2408 Central Avenue NI
Retired	Phone #	Minneapolis 55418
	parameter	
Active	0 0	
Active	I am willing to give someone a ride (Please call Rodney Anderson to	ount Enclosed:



Branch Nine News 2408 Central Avenue NE Minneapolis, MN 55418-3712

Change Service Requested

PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID TWIN CITIES MN PERMIT NO. 91964

## Stay informed by:

- \*Signing up for E-activist at NALC.org
- \* Branch9nalc.com (website)
- \*"like" our Branch 9 Facebook Page
- \* Follow us on Twitter

### Contribute to the PAC

The Letter Carrier Political Fund is the anchor for NALC's legislative and political activities.



nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity

## **Branch 9 Calendar**

#### March 18 1970

The Great Postal Strike

#### March 28

General Membership Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

## March 30

Racial & Economic Justice Meeting 7:00PM East Lake Street Library 2727 E Lake St, Minneapolis, MN

#### April 6

Cribbage Tournament 10:00AM Branch 28 1715 Van Dyke Street Maplewood, MN

#### April 11

Food Drive Coordinators Meeting 6:00PM

## April 11

Steward Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

#### April 20

CCA Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN

#### April 22

Ron St. Clair MDA Bowl-a-thon 7:00 PM New Hope Bowl

#### May 7

Red and Gold Retiree Banquet Minneapolis Ramada Plaza

#### **May 13**

Stamp Out Hunger 25th Anniversary

#### **Northside Retiree Breakfast**

1st Tuesday of the Month 9:30AM @ Elsie's 729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis

#### N Suburban Retiree Breakfast

1st Friday of the Month 8:30AM @ Denny's Restaurant 9020 Quaday Avenue NE, Otsego

#### Southside Retiree Breakfast

2nd Tuesday of the Month 9:00AM @ Fred Babcock VFW 6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

#### **Nokomis Retiree Breakfast**

4th Tuesday of the Month 9:00AM @ Fred Babcock VFW 6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

#### **POCUM**

4th Monday of the Month 6:00PM - Labor Centre -2nd Floor 312 Central Ave, Minneapolis